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NOTICEBOARD

You will see that on January 8 we have a **Members' Evening**. This is a chance for members to tell the Society about interesting discoveries or activities and show pictures. We already have a fine line-up so it promises to be a fascinating evening. But if you fancy taking part, please let Roy or Dawn know in advance. Each person will have ten minute maximum slot, and photos can be digital or slides.

And even if you don't want to take part yourself, come along and find out what your fellow members get up to in their spare time!

Ann Tomlinson, Chairman

Membership Renewal

Thank you very much to those who have now renewed for 2013, but there are still many who have not done so yet. Please would those who pay annually either in person or by cheque do it NOW – it is so helpful. Cheques should be made payable to RNHS, not to me, and there's a form on the last page.

To Our Deliverers – Thanks!

I've been asked by the Committee to heartily thank all who distribute the Society's Annual Reports, Fieldfares and Membership Cards. The Society would have to increase subscriptions by a substantial figure if all were posted. Our current Deliverers are:

John Ansley (part Oakham)
Ruth Archer (Lyddington)
Michael Clarke (part Oakham)
Norman Gordon (part Oakham)
Tony Land (Uppingham)
Philip Langston (part Oakham)

Enid and Patrick Mann (Langham)
Philip Rudkin (Stamford)
Ann Tomlinson (Ketton)
Raven Williams (various villages)
Linda Worrall (Barrowden & Wakerley).

I am always amazed at how quickly the deliveries are made, whatever the weather.

Graham Worrall, Membership Secretary

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How about becoming a Hedgerow Adviser?

The Rutland Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) is looking for a volunteer to act as its **Hedgerow Officer**. The latter would be a member of the Branch Committee and report to it from time to time (but need not be a CPRE member nor attend all the committee's meetings). An important part of the job is to make contact with the person in Rutland Council office responsible for planning applications relating to removal of hedgerows, arrange to be sent notice of these and then to object or comment as appropriate. He or she would also carry out hedgerow surveys within the Rutland area as and when required using the CPRE 'packs' for the purpose. A comprehensive CPRE handbook on the law and good practice relating to hedgerows is available for guidance.

If you have an interest in, and preferably some knowledge of, hedgerows and would like to discuss the matter further, please contact **Julian Lessey**, the Chairman of CPRE Rutland, tel: 01780 410533, e-mail: jmlessey@havmail.co.uk.

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

Full details of all these events can be found on our website at www.rnhs.org.uk.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sunday 13 January 2013 BEDFORD PURLIEUS WOOD 10 am

Our 'New Year' walk at Bedford Purlieus to look for animal signs, fungi and anything else of winter interest (pity the dormice will be hibernating - see page 20). Led by Linda and Anthony Biddle, RNHS.

Directions: Meet at map ref TL 054 990 on the Wansford to King's Cliffe road, about half a mile outside Wansford at the junction with the small road to Yarwell.

Sunday 17 February 2013 NENE WASHES AT ELDERNELL 10 am

Eldernell is just beyond Whittlesey. Migrant wildfowl are bound to be much in evidence, plus hopefully owl species, and, depending on water levels, wild swans. Led by Ann Tomlinson, RNHS.

Directions: Take the A605 from Peterborough heading towards March. Just past the village of Coates take the turning Eldernell Lane on the north side of the road. Follow this lane until you reach the Nene Washes, where there is a small car park. Map ref TL 318 992.



Setting out, RNHS meeting, Horn Mill, 12 August 2012

INDOOR EVENTS

RNHS indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England School, Burley Road, Oakham; free tea and coffee afterwards.

Tuesday 4 December 2012 WEATHER AND BIRD BEHAVIOUR 7.30 pm

With Tim Newbery, a weather forecaster with the Meteorological Office, currently working at Royal Air Force Coningsby.

Tuesday 8 January 2013 MEMBERS' EVENING 7.30 pm

A fun evening hearing about fellow members' discoveries. More details on page 1. If you would like to bring photos or information yourself, please contact Dawn Whitefield or Roy Edwards as soon as possible:

Dawn Whitefield: 01664 454 578

Roy Edwards: 01572 757205

Tuesday 5 February 2013 THE LIFE OF THE LADYBIRD 7.30 pm

With Dr Helen Roy, Coordinator of Zoological Data and Research at the Biological Record Centre, and a very interesting and enthusiastic speaker who you may have heard on Radio 4,

Tuesday 5 March 2013 RAPTORS 7.30 pm

Learn a lot more about raptors with Simon Dudhill of the Raptor Foundation.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST RUTLAND GROUP

Rutland Group indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton; admission £1 includes tea / coffee / biscuits. See www.lrw.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks.

Monday 10 December 2012 WILDLIFE QUIZ 7.30 pm

How good is your wildlife knowledge? Come and test yourself and friends with a quiz set by the committee – teams of up to 4, a small charge of £3 per head, and refreshments provided will include a glass of mulled wine and mince pies. Prizes for the winning team. (Note that the date is earlier than usual to compensate for the hectic season.)

Monday 21 January 2013 TREES 7.30 pm

*Edward Milner, author of **Trees of Britain and Ireland**, will talk about his work with trees. Considering the latest news about the threat to our ash trees from a fungal disease, this talk will be of particular relevance.*

Monday 18 February 2013 Paddock Grazing for Wildlife 7.30 pm

Elizabeth Ranelagh will talk about paddock grazing for wildlife. Horses are perceived as bad grazers and damaging to grassland, but with correct management they can safely graze species-rich grasslands and attract wildlife. The talk will look at how both the horse and the habitat can benefit from a wider conservation approach.

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

See www.lincstrust.org.uk, or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours, for details of the LWT Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU. Telephone: 01780 762051

September 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds The month started with high pressures and remained this way until the 24th–28th, and then finished off high again. The highest I recorded was 1028 mb on the 6th; and the lowest 986.5 mb on the 25th. The low period referred to above predictably gave a considerable amount of rain. Winds were predominantly SW-W until the 22nd, then N-NE to the 27th, finishing the month S-W.

Temperature A cool September, the lowest overall mean in the last decade of my records. The mean minimum, 8.12 °C, was the lowest of the decade and the mean maximum, 18.91 °C, was slightly warmer than 2008. Nationally the Central England temperature was 1 °C below normal and in the past 100 years only 25 Septembers were colder.

Rain This month was a little wetter than one might expect; the total recorded here was 56.9 mm (2.24 inches), which is 115% of my long term mean. Only 6.7 mm, 12% of the total, fell in the first 20 days and it looked like being a dry month. However this was not to be and the rest, 50.2 mm, fell in the remaining days of the month.

Sunshine Over England and Wales this averaged out at 171 hours or 118% of the 1981–2010 mean. In the past 100 years, 11 Septembers were sunnier.

Temperatures Again a cool month, from my records the mean minimum at 5.44 °C was the 8th coolest in the last decade, only 2003 and 2008 were cooler, by 0.54 °C and 0.34 °C respectively. The mean maximum for the month was 13.44 °C and this was the lowest in the past decade, being 0.7 °C cooler than 2003. As in September, the Central England temperature was also 1 °C below the mean for the standard reference period 1981 to 2010. Nationally in the last 100 years, 27 Octobers were cooler, 70 were warmer and 3 had the same mean temperature.

Rain A wet month – I recorded a total of 78.1 mm (3.07 inches) which is 150% of my long term mean of 23 years. 40% of this fell in the first half of the month, the daily quantities were appreciable and no rain fell on 9 days. In the second half there were only three days without rain, but daily quantities were generally small and therefore difficult to measure accurately. Ranged over England and Wales, rainfall was 4.88 inches or 120% of the average for the standard reference period; and 78 Octobers in the past 100 years were drier.

Sunshine This was a dull October, averaged over England and Wales 101 hours of sunshine were electronically recorded, which is 90% for the standard reference period. In the last 100 years 61 Octobers were sunnier. The mean monthly figure for RAF Wittering is 107 hours.

October 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds There were two periods of low pressure this month, the 10th to 18th and the last two days of the month. The lowest pressure I recorded occurred during this latter period and was 990.5 mb at 0900 hours. Wind speeds and directions were very variable throughout; perhaps the 21st and 22nd are worthy of mention as there was no measurable wind at 0900 hours on both days and also visibility at that time was restricted, 100 m on 21st and 150 m on 22nd.



I am grateful to the Philip Eden Weatherwatch column in the Sunday Telegraph for national figures.

AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE REPORT compiled by Dr C. H. Gallimore

The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343



September/October 2012

Amphibian and reptile records are usually thin on the ground at this time and this year was no exception, with just a smattering of records.

Frogs were seen and heard in Barrowden during September and on 1st October, but there were no records from elsewhere. There were at least four Common Toad road casualties in Wing in both months, although a healthy live toad was found in a bucket of water near my back door on 20th October.

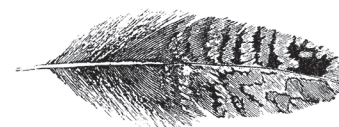
There were no sightings of newts in either month although I found a Smooth Newt in my vegetable garden on 2nd November whilst digging, and a Great Crested Newt in my cellar on 12th November, and as there is unlikely to be a report in the next *Fieldfare* I will record this here.

There were two reptile records. A Viviparous Lizard was found in Burley Wood on 18th September and a Grass Snake was seen on the railway embankment in Wing on 26th September.

My thanks to T Caldicott, G Chiverton and L Worrall who sent in records.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

30 Sutherland Way, Stamford PE9 2TB. Telephone: 01780 751268



September/October 2012

These months saw a wide variety of birds visiting the county from Gannet and Crane to Woodlark and Lapland Bunting. High water levels at the reservoirs reduced wader passage and the numbers of dabbling ducks, whose food was out of reach. Nevertheless, many wildfowl species were recorded. Many passerines were noted on passage in October with large numbers of winter thrushes late in the month – when a single Waxwing at Rutland Water was hopefully the advance guard of another irruption of these exotic birds.

My thanks to the following for their September and October records: V Arnold, P Bennett, M Body, M A Branston, T Caldicott, D Cole, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, M Grimes, LROS, R Lemmon, T Mackrill, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, D Needham, L & B Nicholls, J W Nourish, L Park, D Perril, P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, G R & L Worrall.

Bewick's Swan. One was at RW(Egleton) on 28.10.

Whooper Swan. At RW(Egleton) there were 12 on 06.10, one on 09.10 and nine on 27.10.

Egyptian Goose. Three flew over LFP on 26.10 and two were at Martinthorpe on 27.10.

Gadwall. A peak count of 211 was recorded at FHP on 20.10 as birds dispersed from RW.

Garganey. One was at RW(Egleton) on 03.09.

Shoveler. The peak FHP count was 67 on 29.09.

Red-crested Pochard. One or two were at RW(Egleton and Dam) from 13 to 27.10. Two were at FHP on 15.10 and four were at EBR on 21.10.

Scaup. A female was at RW(North Arm) on 02.10, and a male was at Egleton on 13.10.

Common Scoter. A pair were in North Arm at RW on 10.10, with a female in South Arm on 14.10. Three were at EBR on 20 to 21.10.

Red-breasted Merganser. An eclipse male was at RW(Egleton) on 27.10, and two were at the Dam the next day.

Goosander. Three imms were at RW(Egleton) on 25.10.

Gannet. A juvenile was mobbed by gulls as it flew over EBR towards Uppingham on 28.09.

Bittern. One was at RW(Egleton) on 29.09.

Little Egret. There were six at EBR on 23.09.

Black-necked Grebe. Two were in North Arm at RW on 02.09, with one still present at the end of Oct.

Red Kite. Peak counts were five at FHP on 22.09 and six at EBR the following day. Four were noted between Wing and Morcott on 01.09.

Marsh Harrier. Surely the best year ever for this raptor with 3 different birds at RW in Sept, with one also there on 08.10, one at EBR between 08–23.09 and a female/juv at FHP on 29.09.

Sparrowhawk. Noted regularly at FHP in Sept, with one in an Oakham garden on 28.09 and one near Gibbet Gorse on 14.10.

Buzzard. Four over FHP on 29.09 was the peak count.

Merlin. Singles were at RW(Eggleton) on 28.09, Luffenham Airfield on 11.10 and near Wing on 12.10.

Hobby. Present at RW to 06.10 with a max of five on 16.09. Singles were also at QF, EBR, LFP and Wing between 01.09 and 02.10.

Peregrine. Juvs were at FHP on 22.09 and EBR on 30.09.

Crane. Eight were videod as they flew north over Manton Bay and Eggleton Centre at RW on 26.10.

Little Ringed Plover. Singles were at RW on 02 and 16.09.

Ringed Plover. Present at RW between 02.09–06.10 with a max of 13 on 23.09.

Golden Plover. Seven were at RW on 16.09, with 97 there on 26.10. c.150 flew over Exton Park on 21.10 and 37 were feeding there on 28.10.

Lapwing. At RW there were 240 on 16.09, and 77 on 14.10 when there were 30 at EBR. 198 were in Exton Park on 21.10.

Knot. Two were at RW on 20.09.

Curlew Sandpiper. A juv was at RW on 23.09.

Dunlin. Two were at EBR on 23.09 and 14.10. At RW birds were noted between 05.09 and 26.10 with a max of only seven on 13 and 16.10.

Ruff. Noted at RW between 02.09 and 26.10 with a max. of eleven on 06.09. Singles were at EBR on three Sept dates with two on 14.10.

Snipe. One or two were present at LFP throughout both months, with others near Martinthorpe and Wing. At RW there were eight on 02.09, seven on 16.09 and four on 14.10. Ten at EBR on this latter date was the peak count.

Woodcock. One flushed in CPW on 01.09 was very early for an autumn migrant and may indicate a remnant breeding population there. More typical were singles at Little Haw Wood on 19.10 and near Morcott on 22.10. Six were flushed during a shoot at Greetham Wood on 27.10 but were not targeted by the guns.

Black-tailed Godwit. Four flew over RW(Eggleton) on 16.09.

Curlew. Five were at RW(Eggleton) on 26.10.

Common Sandpiper. Singles were at LFP on 01 and 08.09. At RW birds were noted on five dates between 05.09 and 06.10 with two on 16.09.

Green Sandpiper. Up to three were present at LFP during both months. At RW there were records between 05.09 and 26.10, with three noted on 16.09. One was by the R.Chater near Wing on 06.09.

Spotted Redshank. A max of four (03.09) were at RW between 01.09 and 10.09. Three were at EBR on 20.09.

Greenshank. Noted at RW between 02.09 and 26.09, with a max of three up to 07.09. One was at LFP on 04.09 and one called over Wing two days later.

Redshank. Good nos are usual around RW in autumn but this year only three were found on the 19.09 count. One was at Eggleton on 26.10. One was at EBR on 23.09.

Red-necked Phalarope. A juv was at RW(Eggleton) on 01.09.

Little Gull. One was at EBR on 01.09 and there were singles at RW between 03 and 05.09.

Mediterranean Gull. Singles were at RW on 06 and 20.09. In Oct up to three were noted between 13.10 and 28.10. One was at EBR on 17.10.

Yellow-legged Gull. On 28.09 the regular bird was at RW(Dam), and there were eight on lagoon 4 at Eggleton.

Azorean Yellow-legged Gull. An adult of this southern race roosted regularly at RW between 12 and 28.10.

Black Tern. One or two were at RW between 05 and 29.09.

Woodpigeon. c.800 flew south over Martinthorpe on 27.10.

Barn Owl. A good spread of records with birds noted at Leighfield, near Barrowden, Wing, RW, Manton and Morcott.

Little Owl. The only records were of one at Normanton on 01–03.09 and 01.10.

Tawny Owl. Two were calling in Barrowden in late Sept, and three were heard in Wing on 12.09 and at Leighfield on 27.10. One called at TW on 28.10.

Kingfisher. Two were on the R. Chater on 05.09 and at LFP on 23.09. Singles were reported from RW (Eggleton, Lyndon and Normanton) and from EBR.

Green Woodpecker. One or two were reported from QF, Barnsdale Gardens, KQ and Walk Farm.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Up to three fed at a Normanton feeder in Oct with one also at an Oakham feeder. One was at Tunneley Wood feeders on 28.10.

- Jay.** News of an irruption of continental birds may have been borne out by records of between four and seven, mainly heading west or north-west, at Leighfield, Wing, Manton and RW between 04 and 11.10. Other records, mostly singles, were from Morcott, Hambleton and Gunthorpe.
- Raven.** Records of one or two came from six sites. Three flew over Eggleton Centre on 18.10.
- Firecrest.** One was heard at RW(Eggleton) on 18.10.
- Willow Tit.** One or two were seen in Sept at LFP and near Wing.
- Marsh Tit.** One or two visited feeders at Barnsdale Gardens, Normanton and TW. Two were at KQ on 21.10.
- Woodlark.** One called over Leighfield on 20.10.
- Swallow.** Birds vacated their Barrowden breeding site on 09.09. There were c.140 near Wing the next day and c.250 at LFP on 13.09. 20 were still at Wing on 09.10 and there were late birds at FHP (two on 28.10) and one at RW(Eggleton) on 30.10.
- Sand Martin.** Our last record was of four at EBR on 23.09. Almost 1,000 Sand Martins, adults and pullii, were ringed at RW this year.
- House Martin.** c. 220 were near Wing on 21.09, with c.250 over RW (South Arm) on 03.10. One or two were still present at Barrowden to 30.09, with one overflying the village on 04.10. Five at FHP on 05.10 were the last reported.
- Cetti's Warbler.** One sang near Eggleton Centre on 18.10.
- Chiffchaff.** Migrants were widespread during Sept and Oct, birds were noted at five sites with ten around Wing on 06.10. One near Preston on 20.10 was the last record.
- Willow Warbler.** There were three Sept records, with one in Barnsdale Wood on 27.09 the last bird.
- Blackcap.** Noted in TW and BarnsW in Sept, with one or two at LFP, Wing and Leighfield to 14.10.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** One was at FHP on 07.09 with two near Wing on 18.09, and one on elderberries at RW(Lyndon) the final record.
- Whitethroat.** Our last record was one at FHP on 07.09.
- Sedge Warbler.** One was at FHP on 07.09.
- Reed Warbler.** Singles were at LFP on 13.09 and RW(Lyndon) on 22.09.
- Waxwing.** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 29.10.
- Nuthatch.** Birds were watched at feeders at Normanton, Barnsdale Gardens and TW. Also noted at FHP, LFP and Wing.
- Starling.** Passage was noted from 13.10 when 900 flew west over Wing, with 2,500 south over Manton on 25.10. On 29.10 between 6,000 and 7,000 left a roost near Heron Bay at RW. Flocks of c.400/450 flew west at Wing and Martinsthorpe on 30 and 31.10.
- Blackbird.** A partial albino with a white head, tail and primary feathers fed in an Oakham garden on 04.10.
- Fieldfare.** Five over Leighfield on 14.10 were the first, followed by one at QF on 19.10. Strong passage on 26.10 saw 800 west over Leighfield and 1420 over Manton. 600 passed over Wing on 29.10, and 750 moved there the next day. Flocks of c.50 were seen at Barrowden, Wing and FHP from 26.10.
- Redwing.** Eight west near Wing on 08.10 were the earliest birds, with 20 south-west over FHP on 15.10. Large flocks noted were 770 west over Manton on 26.10, 285 west at Martinsthorpe on 28.10, 200 at Wing on 29.10, and 400 west at Martinsthorpe on 31.10.
- Mistle Thrush.** 18 were on a ploughed field north of Lyndon on 07 and 14.09, and six were at Normanton on 23.09.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** Migrants were noted at six sites from 02.09, with a max of four in Exton Park on 07.09. Two or three were in Bloody Oaks Reserve, RW, LFP and Lyndon Wood. The last was at LFP on 27.09.
- Redstart.** A female was at Leighfield on 04.09 and a male near Wing on 05.09.
- Whinchat.** Two were at RW(Eggleton) and there were singles at LFP on 01 and 19.09, and near Wing on 29.09.
- Stonechat.** One was at RW(Eggleton) from 27.09 to the end of Oct.
- Wheatear.** One was at LFP on 08.09, with a single at Beaumont Chase Farm on 14.09, and two there on 17.09.
- House Sparrow.** c.15 were regular in an Oakham garden in Sept and 35 visited another Oakham garden, also in Oct.
- Tree Sparrow.** c.22 were at feeders at the RW Lyndon Centre on 22.09.
- Yellow Wagtail.** Three were at RW(Dam) on 28/29.09.
- Grey Wagtail.** Autumn birds were seen from 06.09 at Exton Park, EBR, RW, Banthorpe Gravel Pit, Stamford, FHP and Wing. Mainly singles but two were near Wing and three at LFP on 16.10.
- Chaffinch.** c.100 were on ploughed land near Lyndon on 02.09. 116 flew west at Martinsthorpe on 28.10 with 85 west on 31.10.

Brambling. One or two were noted from 14.10, at six sites mainly on passage across Rutland. Two fed at a Normanton feeder on 22.10, with one in an Edith Weston garden on 26.10.

Goldfinch. There were 120 at Leighfield on 23.09 and c.100 fed on thistles near Wing on 02.10. Fifty also frequented thistles near Walk Farm on 10.10 and 14 fed in Oakham garden throughout Oct.

Siskin. 12 were in birches at RW(Eggleton) on 28.09, there were c.65 moving south near Wing on 30.09 and 20 in alders near Pilton on 20.10.

Lesser Redpoll. Small nos passed through at five sites from 04.09, with a max of four at FHP on 21.10.

Common Crossbill. Between 05.09 and 30.10 singles were noted over eight sites, heading south or west.

Lapland Bunting. One was at RW(Eggleton) on 12.10.

Wildfowl Counts September/October 2012

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Exton Park/ Fort Henry Ponds		Holywell Lake	
	16.09	14.10	16.09	14.10	15.09	15.10	No count received	14.10
Mute Swan	497	380	65	61	9	8		7
Greylag Goose	415	120	176	155		49		6
Canada Goose	446	289	98	8		1		138
Barnacle Goose	6							
Egyptian Goose	133	51						
Shelduck	1	1		1				
Wigeon	924	1244	9	32	4	69		1
Gadwall	521	314	7	14	70	202		12
Teal	241	394	25	278	39	51		2
Mallard	683	488	235	98	112	82		66
Pintail	24	51	3	11		4		
Shoveler	70	111	26	4	52	44		5
Red-crested Pochard		2				2		
Pochard	70	16	6	3				
Tufted Duck	4606	4984	654	219	10	23		15
Scaup	3							
Common Scoter		1		1				
Goldeneye	3	28	3	10				
Cormorant	262	248	36	23	1	1		
Little Egret	18	43	8					
Grey Heron	15	11	3	4				
Little Grebe	71	78	4	13				10
Great Crested Grebe	357	274	36	53				
Black-necked Grebe	1	1						
Water Rail	1	1						
Coot	1952	1936	31	127	44	61		49
Moorhen	30	69	7	2	45	36		19
Kingfisher	1	1	1					1

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES. Telephone: 01572 747302

September/October 2012

As you would expect, more records were received for September than October. September saw **Harebells** in Empingham and at Great Casterton the rare, probably introduced casual **Maple-leaved Goosefoot**, whilst **Wild Marjoram**, **Common Centaury**, **Wild Basil**, **Viper's Bugloss**, **Carline Thistle**, **Autumn Gentian**, **Fairy Flax**, **Yellow-wort** and **Basil Thyme** brought the feeling of late summer to the Ketton Quarry LRWT Reserve on the 8th of the month. Bloody Oaks Reserve also had a showing of **Harebell**, **Autumn Gentian** and **Clustered Bellflower**. The last

flowers of **Meadowsweet**, **Great Willowherb** and **Watermint** could be found near the rivers of the County.

In October, Bloody Oaks Quarry still showed **Wild Marjoram**, **Wild Strawberry**, **Dwarf Thistle**, **Burnet-saxifrage**, **Wild Mignonette**, **Lesser and Field Scabious**, **Wild Thyme**, **Germander Speedwell**. In Clipsham Park Wood, **Common Centaury**, **Common Bird's-foot-trefoil**, **Greater Burnet-saxifrage** were amongst the flowers recorded.

Thanks for records from G Chiverton, R Lemmon, J Mallett and M Grimes.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

11 Edmonton Way, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JE. Telephone: 01572 770492



I begin my report with a few notable late additions to the August sightings, the records arriving too late to be included in the September *Fieldfare*. A single **Small Tortoiseshell** was seen in Oakham on 28 August, whilst two were seen at Uppingham and RW Egleton on 20 and 22 August respectively. Two **Painted Ladies** were seen at Manton on 25 August and a singleton at Lyndon at the end of that month.

September/October 2012

There have been regular sightings of **Brimstones** throughout September, mainly as singles but 6 were seen at Ketton Quarry on 5 September. Other sites were RW Egleton and Verge 7.

The **Small White** was seen throughout September at Barrowden and Ketton Quarry, with five being counted at the latter site on the 29th. Other sightings were at the Rutland Water reserves, George Henry and Burley Woods, and Bloody Oaks reserve, with 5 being seen at the latter on the 9th September.

Large Whites have been reported throughout our area during September, mostly as single sightings but four were counted at Ketton Quarry on the 8th. A single specimen was seen in Oakham on 6th October.

There have been just two reports of **Green Veined White**, with one at Ketton Quarry on 1st

September and two at RW Egleton on the 6th of that month.

There are three reports of **Common Blue**, a single sighting at Verge 8 on 4th September, 5 seen at Ketton Quarry on the 5th and a single male at Bloody Oaks reserve on the 9th of that month.

The only record of **Holly Blue** is a singleton at Bloody Oaks Quarry on 9 September.

There is a single record for **Small Heath** with one being seen at Ketton Quarry on 5th September.

There were two sightings of **Small Copper** in September, one at RW Lyndon on the 6th and one at Crown Bridge, Wing, on the 18th.

Painted Ladies have been observed on two occasions in September, one at Ketton Quarry on the 5th and one at Oakham on the 10th.

There have been a number of reports for **Commas** during September, mostly single sightings at Barrowden, Burley Wood, George Henry Wood and Oakham. Three were seen at RW Egleton on 13th September and two at Lyndon on the 30th. The only report for October comes from Ketton, where two were seen on the 1st.

Single sightings for **Small Tortoiseshell** come from three sites in September, namely Barrowden where it was seen throughout the month, Verge 8 on the 4th and Ketton Quarry on the 29th. The only record for October is a singleton in an Oakham garden on the 3rd.

Seven **Peacocks** were recorded at Ketton Quarry on 1st September, whilst other sightings were one at RW Eggleton on the 6th and two at Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 9th. A singleton was seen at Oakham on the 1st October, and several at Dawn's Paddock on the 23rd.

It is pleasing to report that good numbers of **Red Admirals** have been recorded at a variety of sites in our area during September. Highest counts have been in excess of 20 at George Henry Wood on the 15th, and 8 at Quarry Farm and Preston on the 18th and 27th respectively. There was a single sighting in Oakham on 3rd October.

Single **Meadow Browns** were observed at Ketton

Quarry in early September and also at Little Casterton and Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 4th and 9th September respectively.

Singleton **Gatekeepers** were seen at Ketton Quarry on 1st September and Verge 8 on the 4th September.

Finally, there has been an upward surge of **Speckled Woods** over the past few weeks with in excess of 30 being counted at RW Eggleton on 6th September. Other counts were 9 at Lyndon on the same day, and 4 at Ketton Quarry on 5th September. Records have also been received from Burley Wood, Eyebrook, and Oakham during September.

My thanks to the following contributors: J Ansley, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, M Grimes, C Jones, A Lawrence, S Leach, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Needham, B & D Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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September/October 2012

During this period a year ago, several members were reporting sightings of **Humming Bird Hawk moths** but this year the last few were seen in August. In fact, the only migrant species seen recently has been the **Silver Y** on Verge 8 at Great Casterton, at Bloody Oaks Quarry and in several moth traps.

Two **Cinnabar** caterpillars were found on Verge 8 in early September and a **Drinker** caterpillar was photographed feeding in the grass on the Lyndon Reserve on September 30th. An **Angleshades** moth was also photographed on a garden gate post in Oakham on the afternoon of October 18th.

We trapped at Eyebrook Reservoir once in September and once in October. On September 8th we caught 173 moths of 27 species. The most common was **Green Carpet** with 57 individuals and it was good to have 4 **Copper Underwings** and 2 **Red Underwings**. This last mentioned species does not often enter traps, but in autumn can be found resting on flat surfaces, e.g. house walls. On October 6th we trapped only 35 moths of 11 species, but two of these are worthy of note, as a **Deep Brown Dart** had not been caught there

since 2007 with only two previous records in 2002 and 2003. Similarly, a **Grey Shoulder Knot** had only previously been recorded on the site in 2001, 2004 and 2006. Another point of interest from this last visit was that we had one **Beaded Chestnut** and 11 **Lunar Underwings**, whereas at the end of September in 2011 we had 130 Beaded Chestnuts and 115 Lunar Underwings there! How the years can vary due to weather patterns and populations, etc.

At Rutland Water an over-night moth trapping took place on September 3rd when five traps gave 384 moths of 54 species. The reed-bed trap has been operated weekly during September and October giving 70 species (57 macro and 13 micro) with an average of 11 species per week.

Traps were run at Lyndon on September 5th and 22nd, the moths identified there were 17 species and 12 species respectively.

The Barrowden trap has been operated on mild nights during both months with nothing very special to report, just the usual autumn species.

I should like to thank the following for their contributions: V Arnold, G Chiverton, R & C Edwards, R Follows, M Grimes and C Jones

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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We certainly will not forget this summer, described in the press as 'the wettest summer for a century'. It is well documented in the wildlife publications that many species suffered because of this, and the insects in particular have had a very hard time.

As I mentioned in the July / August report, we had been finding very tiny nymphs in the early part of the period, and that the orthopterans had been catching up eventually, in August. Perusing the record cards from the team for Sept/Oct, the good news is that our crickets and grasshoppers do not seem to have suffered as feared, with the usual good numbers and large colonies intact.

A very interesting and intriguing story regarding the Speckled Bush Cricket is a feature of the report this time.

About three years ago, the Society's then weather recorder, John Hollands, sent me a photograph of a female Speckled Bush Cricket that he found on his window sill, at Hazel Grove in Stamford. Subsequently, on two evenings I took the bat detector and checked outside his house and the immediate neighbourhood for any stridulating of these crickets; there was none! On the 8th August 2009, in Rutland, Peter Scott found a male in his garden, in North Luffenham. No investigation

was carried out to discover if there was a colony present.

In late September this year, Martin Grimes found a female wandering around on the verge in Cliff Road, Stamford, which is near the Stamford Recreation Ground. Martin picked it up and placed it on a tree trunk where it 'happily climbed up the trunk'. I visited Cliff Road (which is lined with mature trees), then strolled around the Recreation Ground (full of many mature trees also), but no sounds heard at either location. I made another visit a few days later, to no avail.

On the 16th October of this year, Roy and Carol Edwards emailed me an excellent photograph of a female, which they found on the wall of their home, in Windsor Drive, Oakham. No follow up was made in their area to locate possible other Speckled Bush Crickets. The sighting appears in this report.

I have researched the literature on this species, and all the books state that they often appear in gardens. But there is no mention of how an isolated individual gets there (they are flightless). However, regarding the Stamford sightings (Lincolnshire), which had no success with follow-up investigations, it is possible that the cricket had been in plants that had been bought from a garden centre.



Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Clive Jones, David Needham, Alistair Lawrence and Phil Rudkin returned to George Henry Wood again on 15th September, to check out later species compared to those found there on 21st July. We were rewarded with new squares. David Needham and Phil Rudkin visited Walk Farm, Great Casterton, which also had new sites.

Meanwhile, Martin Grimes sent in regular reports from the Lyndon reserve whilst on duty there, thanks Martin!

There were two light frosts on October 13 and 14, and a heavy frost on the 27th. The latter frost may well have 'seen off' the majority of Rutland's Orthopterans. Will there be any left in November?

September/October 2012

BUSH CRICKETS

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

Visits to regular sites on 6, 9, 15, and 27 September, at Verge 7, had good numbers of stridulating males in nettles, brambles and scrub. Two males were heard in nettle scrub at Walk Farm, on 10 October, 3.15 pm, 12 °C. On the 14 October, at 1.30 pm, cool, breezy with sunny periods, Martin Grimes located one stridulating male, in hedgerow, bordering the County boundary, on Little Casterton Road, Stamford, a new square (TF020085).

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*

9th September: massive numbers of stridulating males, found in the rich verge herbage on Verge 6, Bloody Oaks. Followed by the nearby Bloody Oaks nature reserve, where the usual big numbers were located. In the afternoon, Verge 7 was visited, with four heard on grass verge.

15th September: large numbers of stridulating males in thick grasses, at George Henry Wood. Four females caught, and one macropterous (long winged) form, female.

The final Rutland Water Survey at the Lyndon reserve by Clive Jones, David Needham and Phil Rudkin took place on the 30th September, to the west of the Visitors' Centre. Results were as expected, with good numbers in usual habitats.

This was followed up by Martin Grimes, on 7 October, in the same locations with similar success: two stridulating males in grasses, two more further up the slope, and six more heard in wild bird cover crops between new tree plantations, on 10th October, 3.15 pm, new square (TF015117).

On 10th October, Martin Grimes crossed into the county boundary at Green Lane, Stamford, at midday, warm and sunny, and heard three stridulating in scrub, in hedge bottom – new square (TF026086).

Finally, on the 30th October at 3.30 pm, cold, overcast and dry, I wandered around Quarry Farm, Stamford, with bat detector switched on. Nothing in the first field, but just inside the second field, in long tussocky grasses, a very slow and drawn-out stridulation came from the grass, of one very cold individual male. Three stridulations with a few minutes gap between each one. This male had survived the heavy frost of the 27th October. I heard no more!

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*

9th September: six stridulating males, in long grass inside farm gateway, Verge 7. Large colony of stridulating males, in thick grasses near entrance, and another large colony located in the thick grasses between the trees further along up a slope. Four females caught and photographed, before being released. New square, George Henry Wood (SK956161).

Four stridulating on Verge 7, on 27th September. On the Rutland Water survey at the Lyndon reserve, on 30th September, 60 plus males were heard along the farm track verges. Finally, thirty stridulating males, in wild bird cover crops between new tree plantations, at 4.15 pm – another new square, at Walk Farm (TF015117).

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

I visited the Bloody Oaks nature reserve on 9th September, followed later by Verge 7: high numbers heard stridulating at 35 kHz on the bat detector, in Hawthorn and Ash trees at both locations, at 2.45 pm, 22 °C.

On 15th September, 22 stridulating males, in Blackthorn, near entrance, and 80 plus, heard in long stretch of Hawthorn hedgerow further along up a slope, George Henry Wood – new square (SK956161).

Five in hedge, on 27th September, at Verge 7.

Usual large colony in trees and hedges, at the Lyndon reserve car park, and along the Hawthorn hedgerows, west of the Visitors' Centre, on 30th September.

Heard in hedgerows on Verge 7 by Martin Grimes, on 6th October. Six, stridulating males, in Hawthorn hedgerow trees, in the children's' play area, Sykes Lane, Rutland Water, at 12.30 pm – new square (SK935083).

Usual large numbers located in long stretches of Hawthorn hedgerows, at Walk Farm, 10th October. Five stridulating males, in south-facing hedge, one observed, midday, warm and sunny, Little Casterton – new square (TF023095).

Finally, a welcome surprise for Roy and Carol Edwards, on finding a female on their house wall, in Windsor Drive, Oakham, on 14th October at 1.0 pm. Carol took a lovely image, and despatched it on email for identification. Let us hope that there is a colony nearby! Nevertheless, it is a new square for Rutland (SK885085). I liked Roy's comment: 'what a lovely looking cricket'. It is always pleasing to receive members' garden sightings!

GRASSHOPPERS

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

Two caught and identified, George Henry Wood, on 15th September. Two stridulating and two observed in field margin, Verge 7, on 6th October. Two stridulating males, in vegetation on mound,

adjacent to footpath, east of Deep Water Hide, Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

Large colony found in the rich vegetation, on Verge 6, Bloody Oaks, just off the A1 slip road, 9th September, at 12.15 pm. Later, at 1.30 pm, 10+ observed and heard in grasses on the Bloody Oaks reserve. Large colonies observed, and heard stridulating in the grasses at George Henry Wood, on 15th September. Two, observed in grasses near Tufted Duck Hide, Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water, on 7th October.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Large numbers of stridulating males, many observed in grasses, at George Henry Wood, on 15th September. Finally, two, caught and identified in grasses, outside Deep Water Hide, west of the Visitors' Centre, Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water, on 30th September.

Many thanks to the following for their efforts during this difficult autumn: C & R Edwards, M Grimes, C Jones, A Lawrence, D Needham, P Rudkin.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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September 2012

A good month for gall reports, a total of 40 which came from just five sites, although one of these was Ketton Quarry which has of course a variety of habitats and could arguably be split into sections. The valley area of the quarry produced a mophead or button-top gall on Hawthorn, which is caused by a gall midge and has been found in this spot in previous years. The west glade of the quarry gave us a Lighthouse gall on Ground Ivy and this is also caused by a midge, which stimulates the plant to produce a column on the leaf which is 3-4 mm high and which later falls off leaving a shot hole.

On the 13th there was a report of some 18 galls in the Egleton-Lax Hill area, among which was a Rust gall on Hemlock, the above mentioned button-top gall on Hawthorn and a considerable quantity of Knopper galls on Oak. This abundance has also been seen by others as

a note by Michael Chinnery in the current issue of *Cecidology*, the journal of the British Plant Gall Society, reports. It also points out that this infestation is unlikely to threaten the Oak as it only needs one acorn to be successful in its lifetime for the continuation of the species. This observation is reinforced by a report from Wing in which a 12-year-old Oak had huge numbers of Knopper galls and an older Oak nearby also had fair numbers. A single report from Burley Wood on the 25th was of Common Spangle galls on Oak.

A visit to Eye Brook plantation on the 27th, which produced 13 different types of gall, brings the month's report to a close. Most were the usual ones which occur everywhere but one, the Artichoke gall on Oak, is less often reported. It is caused by a species of gall wasp, one of the many that reproduce on Oak, and it may be that the apparent under-reporting of these is due to the fact that one can only easily see the lower branches. Oh for a cherry picker!!

October 2012

By a strange coincidence this month, like the last, has produced a total of 40 galls from five sites, albeit the sites are different from those featured last month. The 9 galls reported from Hambleton Wood on the 11th were routine species which occur regularly in this area and form the basis of the *Annual Report*. Priors Coppice on the 18th featured some 12 galls, 5 of which were rusts on Goat Willow, Enchanters Nightshade, Ground Ivy, Bramble and Meadowsweet; the latter also had a Midge gall, which was well distributed over the site.

One of the others was on Creeping Buttercup and appears as rounded swellings on the leaf surface. This is seasonal and is generally found in autumn and winter. It is caused by a smut and will eventually split open so that the mature spores can be disseminated.

Also on 9th there was a follow up to the report of 2nd September concerning Knopper galls at Wing. By this date nearly all the galls had fallen, carpeting the ground beneath the tree.

The final report for this month was from the Eggleton Centre in the direction of lagoon 4 on the 25th, an area that doesn't seem to have been surveyed before and turned up a total of 17 galls, 8 of them rusts. Obviously what turns up must depend on the flora of the site, and on this occasion 4 galls were on Alder, a rust and 3 mite galls, and 3 were on Oak, 1 caused by a midge which makes the leaf edges fold over and also the Cola Nut gall and the Common Spangle gall. Like the Knopper galls mentioned in the September report, the Common Spangle seems to have been widespread this year, some leaves being almost entirely covered by them.

Thanks to: G Chiverton, C H Gallimore, M Grimes and R Lemmon



So what is it, Roy? Clipsham Park Wood, 25 March 2012

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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As expected, insects are not as numerous as in high summer but still some interesting sightings.

September 2012

ODONATA

Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* – one in homochrome form was seen at rest at Eye Brook Plantation. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* – one observed at Burley Wood.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta* – one male noted at Burley Wood. **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* – one observed on the Oakham Canal section at rail museum at Cottesmore; 3 noted flying along rides at Burley Wood + one male also at Burley Wood. Also an observation from August – a photo of a male emerging from its larval form from a garden pond at Oakham. **Brown Hawker** *Aeshna grandis* – 1 or 2 observed Cottesmore rail museum.

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum* – observed in good numbers at Ketton Quarry, one female noted at Burley Wood, and one male recorded at Egleton NR. **Ruddy Darter** *Sympetrum sanguineum* – 3 females observed at Burley Wood, a few noted at Cottesmore rail museum.

Dragonflies were also observed at the beginning of the month in a Barrowden garden with at least 3 species indicated by size and flight pattern; the same observation came for the end of the month which included a **Brown Hawker**.

HEMIPTERA

Forest Shield Bug *Pentatoma rufipes* – 2 noted at Burley Wood. **Green Shield Bug** *Palomena prasina* – one noted at 5th instar stage at Burley Wood, one recorded at Egleton NR. **Juniper Shield Bug** *Cyphastethus tristriatus* – one recorded at 5th instar stage at Burley Wood.

Common Frog Hopper *Philaenus spumarius* – one observed at Burley Wood. **Green Froghopper** *Cicadella viridis* – several were recorded at Burley Wood (they were the most beautiful green colour).

PSOCOPTERA

Barkfly *Bertkauia lucifuga* – 2 specimens of this insect were recorded at Lyndon village. The record was submitted with the following comment 'Two specimens of this tiny outdoor Psocopteran were found running around under stones. Less than 2 mm long, it's related to Book and Bark Lice. Both were females, wingless, and have large heads, big eyes, long legs and tiny

abdomen. Status is Nationally Scarce and I have reported the find to the relevant Rec. Scheme'.

NEUROPTERA

Alder Fly *Sialidae* sp. – two noted at Burley Wood.

MECOPTERA

Scorpion Fly *Panorpa* sp. – one recorded at Burley Wood.

DIPTERA

Brindled Hoverfly *Helophilus pendulus* – a few were noted on ragwort at Lyndon NR, also recorded at Egleton NR, Verge 8, Bloody Oaks Quarry and Burley Wood. **Narcissus Fly** *Merodon equestris* – one was recorded on Verge 8. **Flesh Fly** *Sarcophagidae* sp. – several were noted at Burley Wood.

Yellow Dung Fly *Scathophaga stercoraria* – one was noted at Burley Wood. **Drone Fly** *Eristalis tenax* – one was recorded at Burley Wood. **Conopid Fly** *Conops quadrifasciatus* – one specimen of this fly was found on bare ground near the entrance at Burley Wood.

HYMENOPTERA

Ichneumons

Ichneumon *Glypta consimilis* – one specimen of this broadleaved woodland species was found at Burley Wood (I saw this insect when it was swept from vegetation in Burley Wood and it was the most beautiful black and silver colour).

Social Wasps

Hornet *Vespa crabro* – five+ were noted flying along rides at Burley Wood.

Bees

Honey Bee *Apis mellifera* – one noted at Verge 8 and one noted in Burley Wood. **Solitary Bee** *Lasioglossum lativentre* – one male noted at Burley Wood. **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* – one noted on Verge 8.

COLEOPTERA

Ground Beetle *Pterosticus madidus* – 4 were observed at Burley Wood. **Ground Beetle** *Nebria brevicollis* – one was noted at Burley Wood. **Rove Beetle** *Philonthus decorus* – 2 were recorded at Burley Wood.

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – 2 were noted at Burley Wood. **14-spot Ladybird** *Prophylea 14-punctata* – one was noted at Burley Wood. **Larch Ladybird** *Aphidecta oblitterata* – one was observed in Eyebrook plantation.

Cereal Beetle *Oulema melanopus/rufocyanea* - a small red and blue coloured female specimen of this insect was recorded from Burley Wood.

Pea Weevil *Sitona lineatus* – one noted at Burley Wood.

OTHER ARTHROPODS

Millipedes *Diplopoda*

Pill Millipede *Glomeris marginata* – one was noted in leaf litter in Burley Wood.

Slugs and Snails *Gastropoda*

Leopard Slug *Limax maximus* – a very large specimen was found under a rotting log at Burley Wood.

Large Black Slug *Arion ater* – both black and red-brown forms were noted at Ketton Quarry.



And what's this, Tim? RNHS meeting, Horn Mill, 12 August 2012

October 2012

ODONATA

Damselflies

Damselflies were noted still flying around the pond on the 15th October at Dawn's Paddock.

Dragonflies

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa* – several were noted flying around the pond all month at Dawn's Paddock.

HEMIPTERA

Gorse Shield Bug *Piezodorus lituratus* – one insect was noted at Egleton NR. **Hawthorn Shield Bug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* – one was recorded on a guelder rose leaf at Lyndon NR.

Many thanks to the following recorders: G Chiverton, H Ellis, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, T Newton, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall.

HYMENOPTERA

Alder Sawfly *Eriocampa ovata* – several specimens of the larva of the alder sawfly were noted on the undersides of alder leaves at Egleton NR.

COLEOPTERA

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – noted in kitchen and relocated to garden at Barrowden (recorder notes 'an unusual sighting in recent months').

Bloody-nosed Beetle *Timarcha tenebricosa* – noted crawling in grass at Dawn's Paddock (good numbers of these beetles are frequently observed in the warmer months at this location).

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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July/October 2012

Following a very wet, cool spring, things did not get much better, certainly from the bats' point of view, until towards the end of August. One batty highlight of the summer was the Rutland Water Bioblitz held on 6th and 7th July. On the night of 6.7 fourteen members of Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group, including some RNHS members, carried out a bat survey, covering three sites around the reservoir. These were Barnsdale Woodland trail, Hambleton south shore and part of the wood, and at Lyndon Hill nature reserve, from Gibbet Gorse to the visitor centre and west to Deep Water hide. Results appear in the species summaries. We were particularly glad of the opportunity to record at Lyndon, as we have never done a bat survey there before; and I am grateful for the help received from Tim Mackrill, staff and volunteers at the Nature Reserve.

Bats not identified to species included bats recorded by Graham and Linda Worrall in Barrowden, although we know from droppings that pipistrelle and long-eared bats frequent their garden and car port. In early July between one and three small bats were flitting round the Worralls' house in Redland Close, with a possible long-eared bat (slightly larger) on 4.7. In early September a larger bat was flying relatively slowly around garden trees and shrubs in their

garden, which was probably long-eared. A bat was flying around a farm house near the junction of Seaton Road and B677 on 4.7. As usual, another garden in Redland Road also had frequent and quite numerous activity by probable pipistrelles during the summer. On 7.9 several bats were seen flying over Seaton Road, Barrowden. On 6.10 a small bat flew out from beneath the Welland Viaduct at 7.15 pm, north west of Harringworth and just managed to cross the Rutland border before I lost sight of it, and less than a mile further on a bat was flying next to the road at The Poplars, and there was a further sighting at the junction of Main Street, Seaton with the Glaston Road. On 15.10 a small bat was flying down the road leading to Egleton Visitor Centre at approximately 9.15 pm.

Pipistrelle species *Pipistrellus spp.*

On 6.7, during the RW Bioblitz, both common *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano *P. pygmaeus* pipistrelle were heard at Barnsdale, Hambleton and Lyndon. The pipistrelles were foraging around shrubby areas, rough grassland and around the water's edge. Common and soprano pipistrelles were also regularly heard during a survey on 15.9 at Lyndon NR. Alan and Julie Comber kept an amazing, almost daily record of common pipistrelles visiting their garden, from

Seven pipistrelle roosts were counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) as follows:

Species	Roost location	1st June count	2nd June count	July
Common pipistrelle	All Saints, Braunston	39	18	66
Soprano pipistrelle	Fox & Hounds pub, Exton	463	276	718 (4.8)
Soprano pipistrelle	St Edmunds, Egleton			508
Soprano pipistrelle	Rutland Watersports, Whitwell	247	295	257
Soprano pipistrelle	Whitwell Hotel, Whitwell	0	0	0
Common pipistrelle	Stone House, Wing	No count	No count	44
Common pipistrelle	Braunston (house)	Count not received		

1.7 through to 18.9; during that time only one soprano pipistrelle was recorded, on 15.8. As usual both common and soprano pipistrelle were heard in Ketton during the Bats and Glow-worms evening on 7.7, with bats coming out quite soon after sunset. On 23.7, a probable pipistrelle was flying at 2.30pm in a Wing garden; daytime flying is such an unusual occurrence that it suggests the bat was desperate for food. Common and soprano pipistrelles were heard and seen during a walk along the trail southwards from the Scout Hut at Shacklewell Hollow on 19.9. There were no more identified flight records after this date.

The second count at the Fox and Hounds was seriously affected by the onset of drizzle soon after the beginning of the count; as this turned into a downpour the bats gradually stopped emerging. During the July counts, juvenile bats augment the counts, which the Bat Conservation

Trust hopes to use as a means of assessing colony productivity. This suggests that the colony at Rutland Watersports split up some time before the young began to fly. The roost at Whitwell Hotel had not been used by the time of the last check on 3.7. However, it appears that there are several large soprano roosts close to Rutland Water, which has such a variety of insect-rich habitats. With at least five sizeable roosts in the area (and this does not include the Fox and Hounds) the breeding population is probably in excess of 2000 bats, with juveniles augmenting this in summer.

Twelve grounded pipistrelles were dealt with from July to October, all but one of which were either dead on arrival or died soon after coming into care. The exception was one of the Rutland Watersports juveniles; although this male survived until mid-October, it had by that time stopped eating and was euthanased by the vet. See table below for details.

Grounded pipistrelles, July to October

Species	Date	Location	Sex	Age	Outcome	Comments
Soprano	26.7	Egleton church	F	Juv.	Died	Trapped, emaciated / dehydrated
Soprano	26.7	Egleton church	M	Juv.	DOA	Trapped, emaciated / dehydrated
Common	26.7	Belton-in-Rutland	F	Juv.	Died	Emaciated
Soprano	27.7	Rutland Watersports	M	Juv.	DOA	Emaciated
Soprano	27.7	Rutland Watersports	F	Juv.	Died	Emaciated
Soprano	27.7	Rutland Watersports	M	Juv.	Died/E	Failed to thrive
Common	8.8	Essendine	M	Juv.	Died	Emaciated
Common	20.8	Hambleton	M	Ad.	Died/E	Injured wing
Pip.sp.	July	Lyndon	M	Juv.	Died/E	Failed to thrive
Common	25.8	North Luffenham	M	?	Died/E	Broken wrist
Soprano	1.9	Ketton	M	Ad.	Died	Cat strike
Common	4.9	Ryhall	M	Juv.	Died/E	Cat strike, but also thin

Key: DOA – already dead when brought to me; Died/E – taken for euthanasia by the vet.

The two bats from Egleton church managed to get down into the church from their roost in the roof and were unable to get out, but the other bats were mostly found on the ground out of doors.

Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*

During the Rutland Water Bioblitz, Nathusius' pipistrelles were heard in low numbers at Hambleton, where we have heard them before, and at two sites at Lyndon, which was particularly pleasing. A bat was foraging at the edge of Field 1 near Gibbet Gorse at about 10.20 pm, and quite a bit of activity from one or more was heard at the site of Teal Hide by the water's edge. We had our detectors tuned to 35 kHz to listen for Daubenton's and thus picked up the peak frequency of the Nathusius' pipistrelles which is around 39 kHz, although we did not at first recognise what we were listening to, and kept saying that it sounded odd for a Daubenton's! Ian Howden from LR Bat Group and I heard the species again at exactly the same spots during our NBMP Nathusius' survey on 15.9. It seems likely that these bats use the whole of Rutland Water to forage, in suitable habitats, but as the bats turned up late at Lyndon (more than an hour after sunset) the roost is likely to be some distance away. Numbers appear to be small.

Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*

During the Bioblitz at Lyndon, a single long-eared bat was recorded near Gibbet Gorse; it was not heard during the survey but its echo-location sonogram was clearly seen when the evening's recording was analysed on computer. Only one roost was counted for the NBMP; in Wing on 24.7 six bats emerged with the pipistrelles. Two new roosts were discovered; in Lyndon village and Belton-in-Rutland. One bat was seen roosting in the roof apex at Lyndon, while at Belton there was evidence of more activity where three bats were found by a timber treatment company.

Two grounded bats came my way; a female juvenile was found clinging to the edge of a pond in Wing in pouring rain on 30.7. She was very emaciated and it took a while to get her flying. She may well have come from Dr. Gallimore's colony, but the bats had left by the time she was flying, so she will over-winter with me until next spring. A male juvenile found in an Oakham garden on 19.8 was injured, as well as being quite small, and did not survive.

Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentoni*

Daubenton's bats were heard and seen in torch-light during the Bioblitz at several sites along the

Lyndon shoreline; opposite Gibbet Gorse wood, flying in close to the shore at Teal Hide near the visitor centre; and also at the Deep Water hide. The bats were coming very close under trees at the small hide at Barnsdale but none were seen at Hambleton, where the shore is quite exposed if it is windy. At Ketton on 7.7 the water level of the River Chater was much higher than usual because of rain, and activity in Aldgate and the Station Road bridge was seen but at a lower level than usual. Later in the year, on 4.9 we found that in the sheltered waters of Barnsdale Creed there was tremendous Daubenton's activity. A few bats were seen on 15.9 in the exposed area off Lyndon shore.

Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*

These bats are rarely heard in the open on bat detectors and this year was no exception. Two roosts were counted for the NBMP: Whissendine church and Stoke Dry church, but full results have not yet been received. On 21.7 only 13 bats were counted emerging at Stoke Dry church, which is a very low count. This colony has declined considerably in recent years, in spite of what is assumed to be good foraging habitat nearby, around Eyebrook Reservoir.

Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*

During the Bioblitz, the first noctule was heard at Barnsdale at 10.02 pm, and noctule was the first bat to be heard at Lyndon at 10.05 pm. At Lyndon up to five bats were seen foraging together over Field 1, which is sheltered by a line of tall poplar trees on the south side. However, none were heard there during the NBMP survey of 15.9. Noctules were heard at Hambleton south shore on 6.7. Only one distant pass was heard at Aldgate on 7.7. A quite extraordinary sight was that of up to four noctules seen over the Oakham to Cottesmore Road (B668) on 3.10 at 7.00 pm. The bats appeared to be emerging from a roost nearby then flying off north-westerly over the road, but at least one was foraging up and down the road between Burley cross-roads and the entrance to Home Farm. I had no bat detector but in the light of the setting sun, as the bat flew fairly low, it was quite obvious what it was. What a wonderful sight.

Thank you for records and help to: L & I Burger, D Cole, A & J Comber, P & M Coughlan, Dr C Gallimore, S Gregory, J Harris, I Howden, members of the Bat Group, T Mackrill, staff and volunteers at Rutland Water, G & A Rudge, A Tomlinson, J Whiteford.

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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From the Stamford Mercury

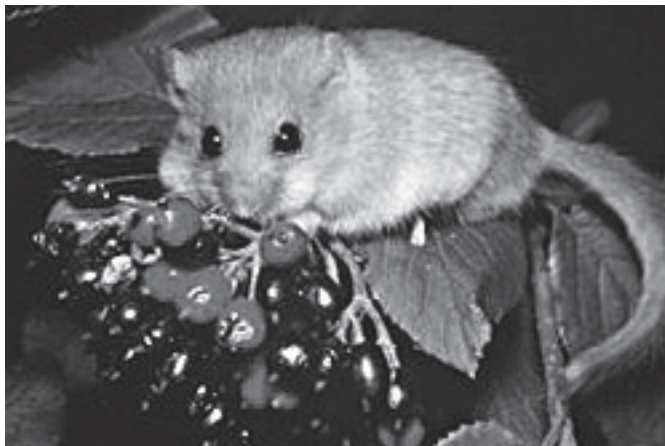
Rare dormice are thriving thanks to trust's project

Rare dormice are thriving in a wood and now a farmer is helping them to branch out even further afield.

The Forestry Commission say that 27 dormice were discovered in boxes in Bedford Purlieu Wood, near Thornhaugh, during the final monthly check of the year in October. The dormice were in good health and with plenty of fat to see them through their winter hibernation.

The checks carried out by rangers and volunteers have been crucial in charting the progress of the endangered creature. They were released in the area in 2001 after becoming extinct locally and 200 boxes were put up.

Forestry Commission ranger Cheryl Joyce said: "Finding so many dormice in our final check is great news. But what has really excited us is that



some animals were found a long way from the original release point, adding to our hopes that they might soon spread into the surrounding countryside."

Spurred on by the dormouse revival, Clive Fuller from 150 acre Cross Leys Farm is working with Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust and has volunteered to put up more boxes in hedgerows in his fields bordering Bedford Purlieu Wood. He said he was delighted to help.

Mercury, Friday November 16, 2012

Apologies from your Recorder for the absence of a full report, please continue sending in your records.

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2013 NOT USING STANDING ORDER

To G R Worrall, 6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES

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